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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine)

later: Mr. MORENO FERNANDEZ (Cuba)
(Vice-Chairman)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 75: EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION (continued) (A/49/46, A/49/381; A/C.4/49/L.2*)

1. Mr. MOJOUKHOV (Belarus) said that his delegation welcomed the intention of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) to examine in a future report the scientific data on the development of thyroid cancer in locally exposed individuals following the Chernobyl accident. In addition, it supported the Scientific Committee's intention to continue studying the effects of low doses of ionizing radiation and the adaptive response of the human organism to radiation effects. He particularly stressed the importance of preserving the principles of scientific authority and independence of judgement and of ensuring greater transparency in the work of UNSCEAR, particularly in the collection and analysis of reliable scientific data on a broader scale and in providing the public with an unbiased, scientifically sound and highly authoritative assessment of the impact of ionizing radiation on the human organism and the environment. Belarus was ready to expand its cooperation with UNSCEAR on the basis of those principles.

2. For Belarus, the issue under consideration was no ordinary agenda item. The assessment and practical recommendations of UNSCEAR had been and continued to be profoundly influential in development and refinement of the scientific strategy of broad international cooperation to minimize the environmental and medical consequences of the Chernobyl accident, the tenth anniversary of which would be marked in 1996. The after-effects of the so-called peaceful atom were felt by practically every Belarusian family. Research by Belarusian scientists, which had been repeatedly confirmed by international experts, including the World Health Organization (WHO), demonstrated the continued deterioration of the nation's health: malignant tumour morbidity was increasing, children's immune systems had altered, cases of mental disorder and illness were on the increase and the frequency of congenital defects was growing. Along with the steady increase in the number of pregnancy and birth complications, that process had led to negative population growth in a number of regions of Belarus.

3. The scientific institutions and laboratories set up after the Chernobyl accident had amassed extensive material on various aspects of the effects of atomic radiation. Research work was guided by the priorities in the scientific part of the State programme for the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Belarus supported the elaboration of new international radiation safety standards, since such an undertaking was directly relevant to the residence regulations applicable to the local population in contaminated areas. For many years to come, studies would be conducted in the contaminated areas not only of Belarus but also of Ukraine and the Russian Federation on aspects of the radiation protection strategy to be followed in the event of large-scale nuclear disasters, as well as on the impact of atomic radiation on ecosystems and human health. Belarusian scientists would continue to participate actively in the joint implementation of international scientific projects with WHO, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the European Union and would also conduct bilateral projects with the United States of America, Japan and other countries.

4. Belarus would continue to work for businesslike cooperation with UNSCEAR and was prepared to provide extensive scientific material and the services of its specialists to assist in examining the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. A joint analysis of the materials at his country's disposal with the participation of the authoritative scientists of UNSCEAR would clearly be the best way of gaining an understanding of the behaviour of atomic radiation. The updating and reissue of the part of the 1988 UNSCEAR report dedicated to the first - albeit, in the view of Belarusian scientists and specialists from other countries, not entirely accurate in terms of current realities - international assessment by the United Nations of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster would now be both timely and scientifically justified. That assessment had been based on such macro-indicators as the total area and population of the former USSR. The new assessment must include the latest data on doses and effects and should evaluate the risks of post-Chernobyl radioactivity for the environment and population in each of the now independent States affected by the consequences of the disaster. Belarusian scientists had already made their initial contribution to such a report by preparing and publishing in 1993 a national report on the full range of post-Chernobyl consequences.

5. In its statement on agenda item 14, "Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency", his delegation had proposed the convening in Minsk in 1996, the tenth anniversary of Chernobyl, of an international scientific conference under the auspices of the United Nations and IAEA and with the fullest participation of UNSCEAR. He hoped that the proposal, which had already been supported by Ukraine, would be constructively considered by the United Nations and IAEA.

6. In the context of the general reform of the United Nations, his delegation suggested that the report of UNSCEAR to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session should be devoted to a retrospective analysis of its activity and should also contain proposals for the consideration of the long-term prospects for its work, and not only from the standpoint of its scientific priorities. At the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, Belarus had suggested increasing the membership of UNSCEAR. In rationalizing the agendas of the Main Committees, consideration could also be given to the advisability of moving the item "Effects of atomic radiation" from the Fourth to the Second Committee. Those ideas could also be discussed at a preliminary stage in informal consultations.

7. As a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.2*, Belarus believed that it could be adopted by consensus.

8. Mr. ALVAREZ GOYOAGA (Uruguay), speaking also on agenda item 74, said that conflicts and international tension had an adverse impact on small States. A number of problems had arisen with the definition of small States and the criteria to be applied in assigning a State to one or another category. The very existence of small States depended upon full compliance with the basic principles of international law, as embodied in the Charter of the United

Nations, concerning the sovereign equality of States, their territorial integrity, their obligation not to intervene in the internal affairs of other States, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. His delegation had always spoken in defence of those principles in various United Nations forums.

9. As for the problems outlined in the preambular paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 46/43 of 9 December 1991, the Parliament of Uruguay had completed its ratification of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Uruguay supported the efforts by the international community to prevent terrorism and terrorist acts and had also ratified the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries.

10. He commended UNSCEAR on its report on the effects of atomic radiation. The effects of artificial radiation sources on certain groups of people had serious consequences, since radiation derived from elements which had escaped the control of the people who worked with them. The various means of transporting radioactive substances led to an increase in radiation levels, and such factors as the dumping of toxic radioactive waste and the careless handling of artificial radiation sources were also cause for concern.

11. In conclusion, Uruguay reiterated the proposal made at the previous session on rationalizing the agenda of the Fourth Committee. The agendas of the former Special Political and Fourth Committees had been combined for two successive sessions. It was time to make similar efforts in the other committees. That could be done in an ad hoc open-ended working group or through consultations between the Chairman and interested delegations. His delegation would make specific proposals in that regard.

12. Mr. Moreno Fernandez (Cuba), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

13. Mr. BANSAL (India) said that the work of UNSCEAR provided the public with a balanced perception of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation. Its reports were used as reference documents by scientists world wide and served as a basis for international and national standards of radiation protection. The valuable contributions made by the representatives of WHO, IAEA, the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements should be noted. The Indian delegation was confident that Member States, the specialized agencies and the organizations of the United Nations system would provide in a timely manner information pertinent to the Scientific Committee's research in order to enhance its relevance and value. India had also cooperated closely with UNSCEAR in its work. Indian scientists had participated actively in its annual meetings in Vienna and had made positive contributions in the preparation of its annual reports.

14. India was committed to a policy of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Nuclear power already accounted for a significant part of the electricity production in half a dozen of India's states where nuclear power plants had been built. India was a leading producer of radioisotopes with

applications in medicine, agriculture and industry. For India, nuclear energy was an important means of accelerating economic development.

15. India was committed to maintaining the highest nuclear safety standards and had been one of the first countries to sign the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which had been opened for signature in Vienna on 20 September 1994. India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board ensured compliance with regulatory practices at nuclear installations. Radiological protection was an ensured means of plant safety measures accompanied by an extensive environmental surveillance programme. India believed that every State which conscientiously and scrupulously discharged its nuclear safety responsibilities was thereby fulfilling its obligations to the international community as well.

16. India was committed to the goal of universal and complete nuclear disarmament. It was in favour of a comprehensive test-ban treaty and a treaty prohibiting the production of fissile material for weapons as steps towards global nuclear disarmament. The power of the atom should be used only for mankind's progress.

17. Mr. GRIFFIN (Australia) said that in the 39 years of its existence UNSCEAR had competently and efficiently discharged its mandate, serving the international community by providing a scientific environment for evaluating new information and developing new concepts which often found their way into the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection and thence into national radiation control regulations in many States.

18. Australia had consistently made the point that the work of UNSCEAR had a practical as well as a purely scientific significance since, despite encouraging recent trends, the world remained over-armed with nuclear weapons and nuclear testing continued. The Australian Government remained firmly committed to the objective of complete nuclear disarmament under effective international control. Australia had participated actively in the current negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty in the Conference on Disarmament and urged their speedy conclusion.

19. The Australian Government welcomed the testing moratoriums which a number of nuclear-weapon States had had in place for some time and it urged their continuation. Particularly welcome was the testing moratorium observed by France at its Muroroa test site, and Australia called on the Government of France to end nuclear testing in the South Pacific completely. The continued testing by China, alone among the nuclear-weapon States, was a keen disappointment. Australia urged China to consider the damage which such testing was doing to the current climate of confidence underpinning the negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty and to suspend its testing programme.

20. The Australian Government welcomed the accession by China and the Russian Federation to the relevant protocols to the 1985 Treaty on a South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone (the Treaty of Rarotonga). Unfortunately, the United Kingdom, the United States and France had yet to sign and ratify the protocols. Australia renewed its appeal to them to do so without further delay.

21. Speaking in Australia's capacity as current Chairman of the South Pacific Forum, he said that the Forum welcomed the progress made in the negotiation of a convention to ban the import of hazardous wastes into island countries members of the Forum and to control the transboundary movement and management of such wastes in the South Pacific region. The Forum also welcomed the ban on the dumping of radioactive wastes at sea adopted in November 1993 by all but one of the parties to the 1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter. It expressed its concern at the possibility of continued dumping of radioactive wastes in the North Pacific by the Russian Federation. The Forum reiterated its concern about the risks inherent in the shipment of radioactive materials by Japan and its expectation that such shipments would be made in accordance with all safety and security regulations.

22. Where nuclear weapons were concerned, the South Pacific Forum welcomed the growth in the number of parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and would like the Treaty to be extended indefinitely at the 1995 Review Conference. The Forum welcomed the extension or continuation of their nuclear testing moratoriums by the nuclear-weapon States (except China). It noted that the permanent cessation of testing by France would contribute significantly to improving further the relations between France and the countries of the Forum. The Forum welcomed the commitment of the nuclear-weapon States to negotiate a comprehensive test-ban treaty and called for its early conclusion.

23. Mr. GEORGE (Federated States of Micronesia) said that in his statement in the General Assembly the representative of the Marshall Islands had referred to recently declassified documents of the Government of the United States concerning the detonation of 67 atomic bombs in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The documents suggested that the level of radioactive contamination was different from the level previously reported to the Governments of the region. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia had asserted that the radioactive fallout from United States atomic testing had not been confined to the Marshall Islands but had possibly extended to territory in the Federated States of Micronesia, including the capital, Pohnpei. It was not unlikely that the rare forms of cancer and other illnesses which had afflicted the local population were the result of atomic radiation following the test explosions in the region.

24. While the debate on the extent and effects of the radioactive fallout continued, it was a matter of record that the radioactive contamination of the region's environment had been devastating, especially for the Marshall Islands, where the tests had taken place. In that connection the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia was deeply concerned about the statement made in the General Assembly by the representative of the Marshall Islands in which he had requested the General Assembly to consider sympathetically his country's efforts to secure the restoration of its lands and the treatment of its people, and had further suggested that a feasibility study should be made for a permanent storage facility for nuclear materials on one of the uninhabited atolls in the Marshall Islands. While fully supporting the rehabilitation of

land in the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia was firmly opposed to the establishment in the region of any kind of storage facility for radioactive wastes.

25. Together with the Marshall Islands and other island States, the Federated States of Micronesia drew the attention of the international community to the vulnerability of small islands States and the importance of their marine resources and environment for their sustainable development. It was in that conviction that the Federated States of Micronesia had assumed the chairmanship of the South Pacific Forum's working group on the draft convention banning hazardous wastes from the region.

26. It supported the view of the representative of the Marshall Islands that the effective disposal of radioactive contaminants required their permanent isolation from the human biosphere. It endorsed the appeal made by the Marshall Islands for the international community, in particular the countries responsible for the detonation of atomic bombs, to assist in the efforts to cleanse the Marshall Islands from radioactive contaminants and ensure their safe disposal.

27. His delegation drew the attention of the members of the Committee to paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.2 and requested them to make available to UNSCEAR all information about atomic tests in the South Pacific region, with a view to the preparation of a report on the effects of such tests on the population of the region and the adoption of appropriate measures to overcome the problem.

28. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the Federated States of Micronesia, Slovakia and the Solomon Islands had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.2.

29. Draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.2 was adopted without a vote.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of item 75.

AGENDA ITEM 74: PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF SMALL STATES (continued) (A/49/353; A/C.4/49/L.3)

31. Mr. ZAKI (Maldives) introduced draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.3 on behalf of the sponsors and announced that Viet Nam, Oman and Thailand had become sponsors of the draft resolution. The question of the protection and security of small States was handled in the draft resolution in basically the same way as in resolution 46/43 of 9 December 1991, but with a revised paragraph 7. In the sponsors' view, paragraph 7 reflected what had to be done if the question was to be dealt with as carefully and comprehensively as possible.

32. The draft resolution did not attempt to secure any commitments or promises from whatever source. In a rapidly changing world and with the increasing volume of activities undertaken by the United Nations system small States were not insisting on the consideration of the question as a separate agenda item.

Now that a review of the functioning of the whole United Nations system was taking place, the question should be considered by the organs concerned with the reforms. It was essential to take into account in such consideration the full range of preventive, monitoring and even coercive measures for the maintenance of international peace and security.

33. Mr. MOMIN (Brunei Darussalam) said that, small countries faced special challenges stemming from a number of unique circumstances. They were affected by many factors beyond their control and influence. Far more than other countries, they needed a stable and peaceful regional environment in order to develop economically and socially. Brunei Darussalam was a member of a regional association committed to peaceful coexistence and to building among its members a culture of consultation and cooperation and a wide appreciation of each member's needs and capabilities. The delegation of Brunei Darussalam welcomed the fact that the resolution was to be adopted by consensus.

34. Ms. DARMANIN (Malta) said that States now saw cause for concern not only in the threat of military incursion but also in the problems of illicit trade, terrorism and money laundering. The networks which spread threats of destabilization could be neutralized only by an equally effective network to overcome and combat such threats. The report "An Agenda for Peace" acknowledged the importance of regional organizations and the role which they played in the maintenance of international peace and security.

35. The Government of Malta attached great importance to cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations. The representative of Malta had proposed to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) that it should declare itself a regional arrangement within the meaning of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. The proposal had been endorsed by the heads of State and Government at the CSCE summit meeting in Helsinki and had generated the necessary impetus for increased cooperation between the United Nations and the CSCE.

36. Regional organizations were better able to deal with emerging security threats, which by their nature required flexibility of approach inspired by shared values. Any action taken at that level must obviously be consistent with the principles of the Charter.

37. The responsibility of the international community for the protection of the security of any State extended beyond external threats to some of the internal threats which arose within a society. The internal stability of States, large or small, depended on the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights, and economic well-being.

38. The Maltese delegation supported the main thrust of the draft resolution; it shared the worries of many of the small States in the international community. That was why it had suggested a number of minor amendments which would make clearer the refusal to permit any neglect of legitimate concerns. It hoped that the clarification of its problems with the present text of the draft resolution would help to produce an agreed wording.

39. Mr. CHAUDHRY (Pakistan) said that his delegation firmly believed that, as provided for in the Charter, the United Nations clearly had the potential to guarantee the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Member States. Events around the globe had shown that small States were particularly vulnerable to the hegemonistic designs of big States, external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs. It was therefore imperative for the international community to devise an appropriate mechanism to ensure their protection and guarantee their independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty. The problem of the security of small States was a multidimensional one encompassing the entire range of inter-State relations in military, economic and social matters and with regard to environmental security. The violation of international law on any pretext whatsoever was impermissible and unacceptable and contrary to the purposes and objectives of the United Nations.

40. The most appropriate mechanism for guaranteeing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States was the Charter of the United Nations, which recognized the concept of collective security. Unilateral acts of intervention by a powerful State on the basis of its own interpretation of international law undermined the cause of peace and clashed with the spirit of the Charter. Regional arrangements had proved quite successful in many parts of the world. They must be based totally on the unqualified support of all the members of regional security agreements and must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

41. The delegation of Pakistan firmly supported a more active role for the Secretary-General in the consideration of matters connected with potential threats to international peace and security. He should fully utilize the powers entrusted to him under Article 99 of the Charter.

42. The sovereignty and independence of States could be secured only through collective action in accordance with the Charter. The Security Council must act as a deterrent to aggression, interference, hegemony and domination suffered by small States at the hands of large ones. Pakistan expressed the hope that the draft resolution would receive the support of the General Assembly and would be adopted by consensus.

43. Mr. BUALLAY (Bahrain) said that his delegation had welcomed the resolutions on the protection and security of small States adopted by the General Assembly. The cold war was over but the world still had many potential trouble spots. Given that situation, small States had a heightened feeling of insecurity, and there was a correspondingly greater need to ensure their defence, a need which was more real than sometimes imagined. It was sufficient to recall the recent aggression by Iraq against Kuwait, which had produced a great psychological shock because it meant that the unthinkable had happened. Furthermore, life in Kuwait had hardly returned to its normal pattern when the news arrived of a new deployment of Iraqi troops close to the border between the two States. Conflicts were also found in other regions.

44. In such circumstances small States needed international legal protection more than ever before. While in the past they had needed protection to augment

their level of well-being and development, some of them now needed it merely to maintain their existence.

45. Mr. KANE (Mauritania) said that since 1989, when the item on the protection and security of small States had been included in the agenda of the General Assembly at the initiative of Maldives, the matter had continued to be a central concern of the international community. Because of the profound changes that had occurred in recent years on the international scene, new and more complex problems, whose solution called for closer cooperation and solidarity, had been added to the traditional problems of mankind. In that connection Mauritania noted with satisfaction the consistency and effectiveness of the action taken by the Security Council. Small States regarded the United Nations, and particularly the Security Council, as the guarantors of their security. That was why they considered the equitable representation of small States in the various organs of the United Nations to be of the highest importance.

46. Referring to the concept of collective security, he said that because of the vulnerability of small States to external threats, those States occupied a special place on the international scene. That had been recognized by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/339).

47. His delegation considered that since the most effective safeguard of the security of all States was respect for the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity and for the principles of the Charter and of international law, the United Nations could strengthen such security by increasing the effectiveness of the resources already at its disposal. In that connection, the Organization's preventive role might be enhanced by the systematic application of Article 99 of the Charter. Moreover, the United Nations was the appropriate forum for the development of agreed measures to enable States to address new problems more effectively, since it was acknowledged that military aggression or armed intervention were not the only factors that currently threatened the security of States.

48. His delegation noted that an important role in the common effort to achieve stability in the world devolved on subregional and regional organizations. Since confidence was one of the most important preconditions for security, it was important that the countries of each region should create machinery capable of enhancing transparency in their relations as a means of building confidence. In that connection, Mauritania welcomed the creation of the mechanism for conflict prevention and management under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

49. In addition to confidence-building, the economic and social development of all countries, particularly poor countries, should also be promoted, since such phenomena as poverty, illiteracy and disease were underlying factors in most conflicts.

50. Mr. SAMANA (Papua New Guinea), thanking the Secretary-General for his report on the protection and security of small States, said that the United

Nations should consider new proposals and strategies to ensure that the protection and security of small States was guaranteed. The question of the protection and security of small States, which constituted over 50 per cent of the membership of the United Nations, was extremely important for the survival of those entities. In that regard he commended the initiative taken by Maldives and expressed his appreciation of the resolution it had introduced on the protection and security of small States.

51. The delegation of Papua New Guinea considered that security in an interdependent world could not be handled in isolation, since, as the Secretary-General had pointed out in his Agenda for Peace, social peace was as important as strategic or political peace.

52. His delegation noted that the security of the countries of the Pacific region was threatened not so much by invasion by an aggressor or a foreign force as by other very serious social and economic factors, among them the depletion of natural resources, which could lead to social and political tensions and threaten the survival of their countries and their environment. Papua New Guinea therefore supported the resolution and strongly recommended: the development of South-South cooperation and regional capacity-building in trade and investment; strengthening the effectiveness of the agencies and machinery of the United Nations in their support for the development of small States; and the development of programmes and activities to strengthen the political and economic position of small States.

53. The CHAIRMAN announced that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Nigeria had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.3.

AGENDA ITEM 85: SCIENCE AND PEACE (continued)

54. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) said that at the forty-third session of the General Assembly in 1988, her delegation had proposed the inclusion of the item "Science and peace" on the Assembly's agenda. That item had next been considered at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in 1990 when resolution 45/60 of 4 December 1990 had been adopted. It was to have been considered again at the forty-seventh session in compliance with that resolution but, because the necessary report was not available, Costa Rica had requested that consideration of it be deferred to the next session. At the next session the same thing had occurred, and Costa Rica had again requested the deferral of the item to the current, forty-ninth session. Again, however, the required report had not been submitted. Costa Rica greatly regretted what had occurred and proposed that the item be removed from the agenda of the General Assembly and, consequently, from that of the Fourth Committee.

55. Mr. DEYONG Kong (China) said that General Assembly resolution 43/61 of 6 December 1988 had made a great contribution to mankind's awareness of the importance of the questions of peace and security and of using scientific and technological achievements for the good of all people on earth. All mankind desired peace, but that goal had still not been attained. The end of the cold war had not brought genuine peace since new problems had arisen, the old ones

had not been resolved and conflicts had begun to break out one after the other. Peace and development were two fundamental problems of concern to mankind; if peace was the prerequisite, development was the ultimate objective. The Chinese people, who were known for their yearning for peace, had suffered greatly from foreign aggressors throughout their history, up to the time when full independence was attained. They were well aware that science and technology could play both a constructive and a destructive role in the development of civilization. In that context it was extremely important for the States Members of the United Nations to enable scientific and technological achievements to fulfil their proper role in ensuring peace and security, social development and economic growth.

56. Since 1988 China had observed every year the International Week of Science and Peace. The participants in the activities of the fifth International Week the previous year had included representatives of the Government, artists, scientists, students and other social groups. The next International Week of Science and Peace would be celebrated in China from 7 to 13 November. China was currently introducing long-term economic reforms designed to create the necessary internal and external conditions for economic progress. That was in the interests of the majority of countries, and China was ready to join those countries in furthering international cooperation in science and technology and promoting the utilization of scientific and technological achievements for economic development and social progress as its contribution to the strengthening of peace and security.

57. Mr. VERDIER (Argentina) expressed his appreciation to the delegation of Costa Rica for keeping the item on the agenda of the Committee and of the General Assembly over the years; he associated himself with the noble motives that had guided that delegation and proposed that the item be included on the agenda.

58. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that Costa Rica had proposed recommending to the General Assembly that it remove that item from its agenda and, consequently, from that of the Fourth Committee. He suggested that a decision on that matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

59. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

60. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco), supported by Mr. ZEGHIB (Algeria), pointed out that the draft resolutions on Western Sahara over the past five years had been adopted by the Fourth Committee by consensus and suggested that the Bureau should hold unofficial consultations on the draft in order to develop a consensus text for the current session also.

61. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee officers would note that proposal and would take an appropriate decision on it.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.